

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A radio communication system, comprising:

a primary station operable to transmit a random access channel status message only when requested, the status message including a bit rate and ~~that includes~~ an indicated highest available data rate on each random access channel of a plurality of random access channels; and

a plurality of secondary stations operable to receive the random access channel status message,

wherein each secondary station is ~~further~~ operable to determine which random access channel to request based on the random access channel status message; and

wherein the bit rate of the random access channel status message is variable in accordance with channel capacity in order to enable each secondary station to determine which random access channel to request.

Claims 16-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) The radio communication system of claim 15, wherein the random access channel status message is transmitted by said primary station as a part of a paging indicator channel.

19. (Previously Presented) The radio communication system of claim 15, wherein the random access channel status message is transmitted by said primary station as a part of an acquisition indicator channel.

Claims 20-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) A radio communication method, comprising:

transmitting from a primary station, a random access channel status message only when requested, the status message including a bit rate and ~~that includes~~ an indicated highest data rate of each of a plurality of random access channels;

receiving, at a secondary station, the random access channel status message;

selecting, at the secondary station, a selected random access channel based on the received random access channel status message;

requesting, by the secondary station, the selected random access channel from the primary station;

wherein the bit rate of the random access channel status message is variable in accordance with channel capacity in order to enable each secondary station to determine which random access channel to request.

Claims 31-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Presented) The radio communication method of claim 30, wherein the random access channel status message is transmitted by the primary station as a part of a paging indicator channel.

34. (Previously Presented) The radio communication method of claim 30, wherein the random access channel status message is transmitted by the primary station as a part of an acquisition indicator channel.

35. (Previously Presented) The radio communication system of claim 15, wherein the indicated highest available data rate serves to identify whether the corresponding random access channel is available, and identifies a highest available data rate for available channels of the plurality of random access channels.

36. (Previously Presented) The radio communication system of claim 15, wherein the indicated highest available data rate of at least one available random access channel is lower than a highest data rate that could be made available to the at least one random access channel, based on a potential future demand for capacity.

Claims 37-40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously Presented) The radio communication method of claim 30, wherein the indicated highest available data rate of at least one available random access channel is lower than a highest data rate that could be made available to the at least one random access channel, based on a potential future demand for capacity.